

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, Oysters and other shellfish are a treasured treat for millions of Americans in every state; and
- WHEREAS, The American consumer has always enjoyed a fundamental choice between products of all types; and
- WHEREAS, Personal responsibility and care for one's own health and well-being are commonly agreed upon tenets of American life; and
- WHEREAS, Important emerging technologies are now making it possible for consumers of oysters and other shellfish products to choose between traditional raw shellfish products and "treated" or pasteurized shellfish products in a competitive free market environment, and
- WHEREAS, It is widely accepted by all parties involved that "treated" oysters will both fundamentally change the condition of raw shellfish, and that such treatment raises the wholesale price of oysters from the current price of approximately eight cents apiece by another six to eight cents apiece, and
- WHEREAS, It is reasonable to expect in a free market economy that these higher prices will then be passed along to the consumer, resulting in lower demand for oysters, and
- WHEREAS, America's shellfish industry is heavily populated by small self-employed harvesters and leaseholders already operating on limited incomes, and
- WHEREAS, Lower consumer demand could further threaten the small shellfish industry and the livelihoods of thousands of area residents and families who are dependent on oyster harvesting and processing for their own well-being, and
- WHEREAS, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been asked to consider new rules which would force costly and unnecessary post-harvest treatment of oysters, placing product from our area at a severe competitive disadvantage on the open market against product from other regions which will not be required to be treated in the same expensive manner, and
- WHEREAS, America's oyster and shellfish industry has worked cooperatively and with great success to educate consumers with certain health conditions and risks which may be affected by certain types of shellfish, and

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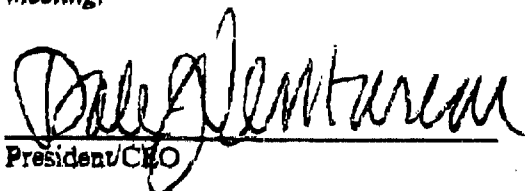
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WHEREAS, These education efforts have been highly successful in reducing health impacts when they have been allowed to fully flourish, and

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, our Congressional delegation, the Governor and other state elected officials, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Rhode Island Hospitality and Tourism Association, 1206 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886 does hereby encourage the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to reject these costly and unnecessary rules and regulations in favor of continuing its successful work with America's shellfish industry toward greater consumer education and awareness, and toward the continuation of a competitive market economy system which has served America's consumers well since the founding of our nation.

Adopted on April 27, 1999 by the RIHTA Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled meeting.


President/CEO



Rhode Island Hospitality & Tourism Association

1206 Jefferson Blvd.

Warwick, RI 02586-2517

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Fax Cover Sheet

TO: Dockets Management Branch
(HFA-305)

Room 1061